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Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

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COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION
AGAINST WOMEN
Eleventh session
New York, 20-31 January 1992

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.

2. Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 18 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

3. Ways and means of implementing article 21 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

4. Ways and means of expediting the work of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

5. Contributions of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to international conferences.

6. Provisional agenda for the twelfth session.

7. Adoption of the report.

ANNOTATIONS

Item 1

Rule 7 of the rules of procedure of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women 1/ provides that the agenda shall be adopted by the Committee at the beginning of its meetings. Rule 5 provides that the provisional agenda for each session shall be prepared by the Secretary-General in consultation with the Chairperson, in conformity with the relevant provisions of articles 17-22 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (General Assembly resolution 34/180, annex), giving priority to any item the inclusion of which was decided at a previous session of the Committee.

At its tenth session, the Committee approved the provisional agenda for its eleventh session. 2/

The Committee has, since its sixth session, set up two standing working groups: Working Group I, to consider and suggest ways and means of expediting the work of the Committee; and Working Group II, to consider ways and means of implementing article 21 of the Convention. At its seventh session, the Committee decided to keep the membership of the working groups flexible. 3/ The working groups will meet during the session.

Documentation

Provisional agenda and annotations (CEDAW/C/1992/1)

Item 2

Article 18 of the Convention provides that States parties shall undertake to submit to the Secretary-General, for consideration by the Committee, a report on the legislative, judicial, administrative or other measures which they have adopted to give effect to the provisions of the Convention and on progress made in this respect. Reports are to be submitted within one year after the entry into force for the State concerned and thereafter at least every four years and further whenever the Committee so requests.

Rule 49 of the rules of procedure provides that representatives of States parties shall be present at meetings of the Committee when the State's report is being examined and shall participate in discussions and answer questions concerning the report. The organization of work for the eleventh session includes the times at which State party reports are scheduled to be considered by the Committee.

At its tenth session, the Committee decided to consider at its 11th session a total of eight reports - three initial reports and five second periodic reports - in order to provide enough time for other discussions. It decided that reports would be selected for consideration on the basis of the date on which they had been received. In the event that a State party did not wish to present a report, the Secretariat was authorized to select another State party from the reserve list, also in the order of the date on which it had been received. 4/ Based on the Committee's previous experience, the Secretariat estimates that it is possible that not all States parties that have been selected and given their confirmation will finally present their reports. In consultation with the Chairperson of the Committee, therefore, the Secretariat has scheduled the presentation by States parties of a larger number of reports, in the expectation that at least the number of reports decided by the Committee will ultimately be presented by States parties.

Based on consultations by the Secretary-General with the States parties concerned, the Committee will have before it the following reports: for Barbados, the initial report (CEDAW/C/5/Add.64); for China, the second periodic report (CEDAW/C/13/Add.26); for Czechoslovakia, the second periodic report (CEDAW/C/13/Add.25); for El Salvador, the second periodic report (CEDAW/C/13/Add.12); for Ghana, the initial, second periodic and third periodic reports combined (CEDAW/C/GHA/1-3);* for Honduras, the initial

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*At its tenth session, the Committee decided that, if States parties whose reports were overdue by the conclusion of that session so wished, they could each submit a combined report to the Committee and that such reports should be numbered by the Secretariat in a way that facilitated their implementation. 5/

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report (CEDAW/C/5/Add.44), the second periodic report (CEDAW/C/13/Add.9 and Amend.1) and the third periodic report (CEDAW/C/HON/3); for Spain, the second periodic report (CEDAW/C/13/Add.19 and Amend.1); for Sri Lanka, the second periodic report (CEDAW/C/13/Add.18); and for Venezuela, the second periodic report (CEDAW/C/13/Add.21).

Rule 47 of the rules of procedure provides that at each session the Secretary-General shall notify the Committee of the non-receipt of any report required from a State party under article 18 of the Convention. The Secretary-General also provides the Committee with a list of reports submitted by States parties to the Convention that have not yet been considered by the Committee. The Committee at its eleventh session will have before it the report of the Secretary-General on the status of submission of reports by States parties under article 18 of the Convention (CEDAW/C/1992/2).

At its ninth session, 6/ the Committee decided that a pre-session working group should be convened before its tenth session and before each subsequent session, as agreed by the Committee at its eighth session, 7/ to prepare issues and questions relating to second and subsequent periodic reports for transmission to the representatives of States parties before the meetings at which their reports were scheduled to be discussed. The pre-session working group for the eleventh session is scheduled to meet in New York from 13 to 17 January 1992.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the status of submission of reports by States parties under article 18 of the Convention (CEDAW/C/1992/2)

Initial report of Barbados (CEDAW/C/5/Add.64)

Second periodic report of China (CEDAW/C/13/Add.26)

Second periodic report of Czechoslovakia (CEDAW/C/13/Add.25)

Second periodic report of El Salvador (CEDAW/C/13/Add.12)

Combined initial, second periodic and third periodic reports of Ghana (CEDAW/C/GHA/1-3)

Initial report of Honduras (CEDAW/C/5/Add.44)

Second periodic report of Honduras (CEDAW/C/13/Add.9 and Amend.1)

Third periodic report of Honduras (CEDAW/C/HON/3)

Second periodic report of Spain (CEDAW/C/13/Add.19 and Amend.1)

Second periodic report of Sri Lanka (CEDAW/C/13/Add.18)

Second periodic report of Venezuela (CEDAW/C/13/Add.21)

Item 3

Article 21 of the Convention provides that the Committee may make suggestions and general recommendations based on the examination of reports

and information received from States parties. It also provides that such suggestions and general recommendations shall be included in the report of the Committee together with comments, if any, from States parties. Rule 48 of the rules of procedure provides that suggestions and general recommendations made by the Committee based on the examination of reports received from States parties under article 18 of the Convention shall be communicated by the Committee, through the Secretary-General, to the States parties for their comments.

Article 22 of the Convention provides that the specialized agencies shall be entitled to be represented at the consideration of the implementation of such provisions of the present Convention as fall within the scope of their activities and that the Committee may invite the specialized agencies to submit reports on the implementation of the Convention in areas falling within the scope of their activities.

At its tenth session, the Committee decided to provide, under the item of its agenda entitled "Implementation of article 21 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women", opportunities for specialists from the specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations to present to the Committee in plenary information related to specific articles of the Convention or to issues being considered for general recommendations and suggestions. 5/ Furthermore, when appropriate, such persons should be invited to participate as resource persons in the work of the working groups.

The Committee also decided to select and to review specific articles and other issues to be considered at subsequent sessions as a long-term programme, without prejudice to any changes that might be necessary as a result of new developments and priorities arising from the review of the reports of States parties. 5/

The Committee further decided that it should prepare comments on particular articles of the Convention, which would assist in the formulation of the Committee's recommendations relating to those articles. 8/

The Committee, at its tenth session, further decided that it would examine at its eleventh session article 6 and articles of the Convention related to violence towards women and the sexual harassment and exploitation of women. 8/ The Committee at its eleventh session will have before it a report of the Secretariat on that subject (CEDAW/C/1992/4).

The Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 1991/18, entitled "Violence against women in all its forms", recommended that a framework for an international instrument be developed in consultation with the Committee that would address explicitly the issue of violence against women. In the same resolution, the Council requested the Secretary-General to convene a meeting of experts representing all regions and including representatives of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control, to address the issue of violence against women and to discuss the possibilities of preparing such an international instrument and the elements to be contained therein, and to report to the Commission on the Status of Women at its thirty-sixth session. The report of that expert group meeting (CEDAW/C/1992/8) will be made available to the Committee.

At its tenth session, the Committee requested that an analytical report summarizing issues relating to the theme of women's role in development (CEDAW/C/1992/5) be prepared by the Secretariat as a pre-session document for general circulation. It also requested that comments on the theme received from specialized agencies of the United Nations and non-governmental organizations be made available to the Committee. The Committee at its eleventh session will have before it a note by the Secretary-General (CEDAW/C/1992/3) on the reports received from specialized agencies, which will be issued as addenda to that document. It further requested that representatives of United Nations entities that were particularly involved in operational activities related to women in development be invited to participate in the consideration of the theme by the Committee. 9/

Also at its tenth session, the Committee agreed to consider further at its eleventh session two draft recommendations that had been discussed in Working Group II, namely, women workers in enterprises and teacher training on equality issues. After a discussion of the means by which the draft recommendations could be placed in a larger context, the Committee agreed to give priority also to the broad theme of women in the informal sector, with a view to beginning the process of formulating general recommendations at its eleventh session. It requested the Secretariat to prepare a short analytical report (CEDAW/C/1992/6) setting out some of the main issues as they emerged in the United Nations system. 9/

The Committee, also at its tenth session, requested the Secretariat to prepare for each session of the Committee, for its information, a report on the implications for its work of the priority themes prepared, or under preparation, for the consideration of the Commission on the Status of Women. 4/ The Committee at its eleventh session will have before it a report on that subject (CEDAW/C/1992/7).

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General on reports provided by specialized agencies of the United Nations on the implementation of the Convention in areas falling within the scope of their activities (CEDAW/C/1992/3)

Report of the Secretariat on the analysis of article 6 (and other articles relating to violence towards women and the sexual harassment and exploitation of women) (CEDAW/C/1992/4)

Report of the Secretariat on official development assistance and the role of women in development (CEDAW/C/1992/5)

Report of the Secretariat on women in the informal sector (CEDAW/C/1992/6)

Report of the Secretariat on the implications for the work of the Committee of the priority themes of the Commission on the Status of Women (CEDAW/C/1992/7)

Report of the expert group meeting on violence against women (CEDAW/C/1992/8)

Item 4

With regard to the limited time available to it to consider reports of States parties, the Committee, at its tenth session, 4/ noted that the backlog of reports that had been submitted but had not been considered was increasing. It recalled 4/ that, in its suggestion 1, made at its seventh session, it had proposed that:

> "The Economic and Social Council request the General Assembly to approve again, as an exception to the provision contained in article 20 of the Convention, eight additional meetings of the Committee in 1989, and bearing in mind the financial implications of this suggestion, to provide it with the necessary resources for those additional meetings." 10/

The Committee, at its tenth session, noted that the General Assembly, by its resolution 43/100, had decided to keep under review the Committee's request for additional meeting time. 4/

The Committee, at its tenth session, decided that if the number of reports received but not yet considered increased by its eleventh session, it would renew its request for additional meetings. 4/

In addition, in accordance with the report of the third meeting of persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies (A/45/636, annex), the Committee at its tenth session decided: 11/

(a) To revise its general guidelines regarding the form and content of reports received from States parties under article 18 of the Convention to include the consolidated guidelines for the initial part of State party reports;

(b) To revise the general guidelines to indicate areas where States parties could include in their reports to the Committee material contained in reports to other treaty bodies, rather than repeat the same information.

Also at the tenth session of the Committee, concern was expressed that, following the presentations by individual States parties, the Committee had not been able to make summary conclusions and recommendations to them that might highlight particularly noteworthy achievements or suggest areas to which they might wish to consider devoting special attention in order to overcome particular obstacles. One member suggested that consideration might be given to holding a short closed meeting at the end of each of the presentations at the eleventh session in order to prepare conclusions. 12/

Item 5

At its tenth session, the Committee decided to consider its contribution to the World Conference on Human Rights, to be held in 1993, as part of the agenda for its eleventh session. 13/ The Committee also decided to prepare an evaluation of its work for submission to the World Conference on Human Rights. 11/

Also at the tenth session of the Committee, members were urged to submit to the Committee at its eleventh session suggestions for its contribution to

the World Conference on Women, to be held in 1995. 13/ The Committee decided that the contribution should, inter alia, place emphasis on the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women 14/ and their links with the articles of the Convention. 13/

Item 6

At its tenth session, the Committee decided that the draft provisional agenda for the following session of the Committee would be approved at the end of each session. 5/ It also decided 8/ that at each session:

(a) It would set a programme for the following two or three sessions, which could be reviewed and amended at each subsequent session;

(b) It would select one or more articles or subjects for study;

(c) The Secretariat would prepare a background report as a pre-session document to be considered by the Committee during its examination of the articles or subjects concerned.

Also at its tenth session, the Committee decided that the programme for its twelfth session would be articles 9 and 16 and articles related to the family and that the programme for its thirteenth session would be articles 7 and 8. 8/

Documentation

Draft provisional agenda for the twelfth session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

Item 7

Under article 21 of the Convention, the Committee shall, through the Economic and Social Council, report annually to the General Assembly on its activities.

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 45 (A/38/45), annex III.

2/ See "Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (tenth session)" (A/46/38), chap. V, para. 369, and chap. VII. The report will be issued subsequently as Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/46/38).

3/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-third Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/43/38), chap. II, sect. A, para. 26.

4/ "Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (tenth session) ...", chap. V, paras. 375-379.

5/ Ibid., paras. 369-373.

6/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/45/38), chap. II, sect. B, para. 28.

7/ Ibid., Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/44/38), paras. 22-25.

8/ "Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (tenth session) ...", chap. V, paras. 380-382.

9/ Ibid., chap. VI, para. 403.

10/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-third Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/43/38), chap. V, paras. 771-772.

11/ "Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (tenth session) ...", chap. III, sect. A, para. 31.

12/ Ibid., chap. V, para. 392.

13/ Ibid., chap. III, sect. B, paras. 34-38.

14/ Report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Nairobi, 15-26 July 1985 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.IV.10), chap. I, sect. A.